



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: :
 Nobuyuki KITA et al. : Group Art Unit: 1752
 Appln. No.: 09/662,548 : Examiner: GILLIAM, BARBARA LEE
 Filed: September 15, 2000 :

For: HEAT-SENSITIVE LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING PLATE PRECURSOR

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir,

I, Norio Aoshima, do declare and state as follows:

I am a citizen of Japan.

I graduated from Sofia University and received a Master's Degree in the course of Science and Technology in March, 1995.

N.A. 03/27/03

Since April 1995 I have been employed by Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd. and have been engaged in research and development of offset printing plate at the Yoshida-Minami Factory Research Division of said company.

I am familiar with the subject matter disclosed by said application as well as the Office Action dated November 27, 2002 concerning said application.

In order to demonstrate the unexpected superiority of the present invention, the following experimentation was conducted by me or under my supervision.

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EXPERIMENTATION

In the same manner as Example 1 of the present specification, the printing plate (free of overcoat layer) of Example 1 and the printing plate (comprising an overcoat layer) of Example 6 of the present specification were loaded on a Heidelberg SOR-M printing machine, and the printing was performed. As a result, the printing plate of Example 1 and the printing plate of Example 6 were not stained on the non-image area thereof until 12,000 sheets of paper and 17,000 sheets of paper were printed, respectively, and the printing was terminated.

It is found that the printing plate comprising an overcoat layer of Example 6 is hard to be stained and thus exhibits enhanced press life because the overcoat layer exerts an effect of protecting the hydrophilicity of the surface of the hydrophilic layer.

I declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Respectively submitted,

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Date: Mar. 27, 2003

Norio Aoshima

Norio Aoshima

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